CHAPTER XX THE CODE AND THE UNIVERSITY*

The Preparation of the Code — The Men who Made it — Its Defects —The Changes it Wrought—-The Benefits it Conferred — French Education under Royalty — Schemes of the Revolution — Bonaparte's Aims in Education — His Preliminary Measures — The University of France.

THE climax of these beneficent changes was a corresponding reform and simplification of the laws. The name of Napoleon has been erased from many of his institutions, but it still endures on that splendid system of jurisprudence known as the Code Napoleon, and in the annals of law-making it vies in luster with that of Justinian. The monarchy, before its fall, had become aware of the inconvenience attaching to the diversity of legal practice in the various French provinces. At one extreme was the old customary law of the northern inhabitants, at the other was the nearly pure Roman law of the south, and between them every variety of peculiar and complicated local practice. One of the meanings of the Revolutionary watchword "Equality"

1 Blanc: Napoleon Ier, ses institutions civiles et administratives; Sabatier: Le Code Civil; Aucoc: Le conseil d'etat; Duvergier de Hauranne: Histoire du gouvernement parlementaire en France; Bignon: Histoire de France; Ernouf: Maret, due de Bassano; Helie: Les constitutions de la France; Duruy: L'lnstruction et weseninFrankreich; Cambace're's: £claircissements ine*dits— quoted at length in Vandal: L'Avenement de Bonaparte, tome II; Nougaret de Fayet: Notice sur la vie et les travaux de M. le comte Bigot de Pre*ameneu; Locre* deRoissy: Procs-verbaux du conseil d'e*tat, contenant la discussion du projet de Code Civil. la Revolution; Hahn: Unterrichts-